listed in the Schedule to the Act. Industries like carpet, bidi, glass, crackers, match-making etc. have already been included in the schedule to the Act. The Government of India has also been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of children withdraw from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation.

The major activity under the NCLP is the running of special schools/ centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc.

So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned for coverage of 2.11 lakh children through 3962 centres in 13 child labour endemic states. One of the main objectives of the Scheme is to mainstream children withdrawn from work into formal schools. As per the information received so far from about 45 NCLPs, approximately 69000 children have already been mainstreamed into the formal school system.

Welfare Fund for Workers Abroad

†2687. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to create a welfare fund for the employees posted in foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether Government have been taken any step so far in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) A proposal for setting up of a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Constitution of a Welfare Fund for the emigrant workers is under consideration of the Government.

Job Seekers

†2688. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have conducted any assessment of the number of people in the country seeking employment;

(b) if so, what has been the annual average rate of increase in the number of people seeking employment in the country during 80's and 90's; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the annual rate of increase expected to be during the next decade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) Number of job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the Live Registers of employment exchanges in the country was of the order of 4 crore and 23 lakh as on September, 2001. The annual average rates of increase in the number of job-seekers during 1981—1990 and 1991—2000 were around 8% and 1.8% respectively. The trend observed for 1991—2000 is likely to continue.

Unemployment problem in North-Eastern States

2689. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to remove the problem of unemployment in the country particularly in the North-Eastern States;

(b) if, so the details thereof and if not, the specific reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the programmes being run by Government to increase employment opportunities in Nagaland ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The planning for employment generation is a part of the Five Year Plans. The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A special group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth five year plan.

The problem of unemployment in the North East Region has been drawing the attention of the Government for quite some time. As a part of the Socio Economic Development Package for the North East Region and Sikkim, an amount of Rs. 10,271 Crore has been earmarked for various initiatives for social and economic development, including *inter-alia* setting up of new ITIs and strengthening of existing ITIs for further development of skills among the unemployed youth, promotion of information technology and its application. These will help the unemployed youth to access wage-employment and self-employment opportunities inside and outside the North Eastern States including Nagaland.